

Photos of Kennedy Shooting

WEDNESDAY
FINAL

RACING
RESULTS-ENTRIES

Los Angeles Times

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE WEST, MORE THAN 950,000 DAILY; MORE THAN 1,250,000 SUNDAY.

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KENNEDY SHOT



MOMENTS AFTER SHOOTING — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lies on the floor of the Ambassador moments after he was struck down by bullets. Times photo by Boris Yaro

Critically Wounded in Head at Victory Fete

BY DARYL E. LEMBKE
Times Staff Writer

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the right ear early this morning in a kitchen of the Ambassador only a few moments after he had made a victory statement after capturing the California Democratic presidential primary.

Kennedy Wins Race; Rafferty Apparent Victor Over Kuchel

BY RICHARD BERG:OLZ
Times Political Writer

A late surge of votes from Mexican-American and Negro precincts—particularly in Los Angeles County—made Sen. Robert F. Kennedy the winner in California's Democratic Presidential primary battle Tuesday.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, Kennedy's major rival in the key primary contest, said he was "reconciled" to a Kennedy triumph. But he said he intended to keep fighting for the party nomination at the Chicago convention Aug. 26.

On the Republican ballot, Dr. Max Rafferty, state superintendent of public instruction, appeared to have ended the political reign of Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel of Anaheim.

The Senate GOP whip and a veteran of 15 years on Capitol Hill ran up leads in Northern and Central California.

Rafferty Vote Projection

But the late surge of votes from Southern California wiped out the Kuchel margin and, on the basis of vote projections, appeared to have swept the conservative Rafferty to an impressive victory.

NBC analysts said their projection of the vote showed Rafferty would get 52% of the Republican vote, and Kuchel would get 45% with the balance going to lesser-known candidates.

The Democratic race for the U.S. Senate nomination was never in doubt.

Former State Controller Alan Cranston easily outdistanced four lesser-known opponents from the very start of the vote-count. For Cranston, it was a political comeback after his defeat two years ago by the current state controller, Republican Houston I. Flournoy.

Tried for Senate in 1964

Cranston had tried for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator in 1964 but was defeated by Pierre Salinger, who then lost to Republican George Murphy in the finals.

Returns were badly delayed in Los Angeles County, where the old-style paper ballot voting system was changed this year to the IBM-Votomatic punchcard system.

Delays in transporting the punchcard ballots from the precincts to the 93 collection centers and then to the computer counters were blamed for the breakdown in tabulations.

And in Fresno County, a programming error in computers was blamed for a breakdown that made their returns lag far behind the rest of the state.

Even before the breakdowns in Los Angeles County, CBS projected Kennedy as the winner over McCarthy by a margin of 52% to

The New York senator's condition was listed as critical at Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was in the intensive care unit.

A suspect in the shooting was arrested minutes after the shots were fired and was taken to the police administration building downtown under heavy guard. The suspect was not identified.

Inspector Robert Rock of the Los Angeles police said that only one suspect was involved. Rock said there was no reason to believe more than one person was involved.

The police also have the gun that fired the shots, Rock said.

Witnesses nearby said Kennedy's head was covered with blood and a

Additional photos of Kennedy on Pages 2 and 3.

woman standing nearby was also splattered with blood.

Also shot was Paul Schrade, UAW official. The extent of his injuries was not known.

The shooting occurred at 12:20 a.m.

Shouts and screams filled the packed hall as the call went out over the public address system for a doctor. Three came to Kennedy's aid as his campaign assistants pleaded for his supporters to be calm and clear the hall.

The senator appeared to be in great pain, but conscious.

As he was lifted into the police ambulance, Kennedy was heard to say:

"Oh, no! No! Don't . . .!"

Mrs. Kennedy whispered to him, apparently trying to comfort and reassure her husband. Then she entered the ambulance, doors were closed behind them and the vehicle sped away.

Kennedy was taken first to Central Receiving Hospital, then was transferred to Good Samaritan, his head wrapped in bandages.

Silence and Shock

Back in the hotel, shocked and silent members of the Kennedy party gathered in small groups around television sets, attempting to clarify their own memories of the event.

Others left in tears.

Kennedy was leaving the Ambassador to attend a party at the Factory in the aftermath of his victory in the Democratic primary.

His path through the kitchen was taken on the spur of the moment.

The assailant fired at the senator at close range and began spraying bullets around the kitchen, witnesses said.

William Barry, a former FBI agent, who is Kennedy's bodyguard, grabbed the gun from the man and wrestled him to the floor.

Roosevelt Grier, the football player, then sat on the assailant until police officers arrived

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THE WEATHER

Light smog today.

Heavy night and morning low cloudiness with partial afternoon clearing today and Thursday. High today and Thursday near 73. Low today and Thursday near 59. High Tuesday, 70; low, 63.

Complete weather information on Page 8, Part 2.

L.A. COUNTY RETURNS

PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION

Democratic		
1,805 out of 6,924 Precincts		
Kennedy	147,110	50%
McCarthy	115,974	39
Lynch	31,332	11
Republican		
1,805 out of 6,924 Precincts		
Reagan	123,501	100%

STATEWIDE RETURNS

PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION

Democratic		
7,486 out of 21,301 Precincts		
Kennedy	426,917	45%
McCarthy	400,323	42
Lynch	117,928	12
Republican		
6,997 out of 21,301 Precincts		
Reagan	392,593	100%

U.S. SENATE

Democratic		
7,226 out of 21,301 Precincts		
Cranston	474,222	59%
Beilenson	175,545	22
Bennett	69,259	9
Buchanan	59,518	7
Crail	23,818	3
Republican		
7,267 out of 21,301 Precincts		
Kuchel	304,703	52%
Rafferty	264,781	45
Ware	7,502	1
Cammack	6,830	1
Jones	5,141	1

U.S. SENATE

Democratic		
1,805 out of 6,924 Precincts		
Cranston	143,695	54%
Beilenson	77,739	29
Buchanan	19,681	7
Bennett	16,357	6
Crail	8,358	3
Republican		
1,805 out of 6,924 Precincts		
Rafferty	109,740	58%
Kuchel	73,898	39
Ware	2,223	1
Jones	1,543	1
Cammack	1,473	1

CONGRESS

13th DISTRICT Democratic		
6 out of 53 Precincts		
Horwitz	284	41%
Scheinbaum	277	40
Cole	134	19

13th DISTRICT Republican		
6 out of 53 Precincts		
Teague (Inc.)	720	100%

17th DISTRICT Democratic		
22 out of 394 Precincts		
Anderson	1,459	32%
Tucker	1,167	25
Gibson	860	19
Hayward	425	9
Frantz	377	8
Griffin	167	4
Pipersky	70	2
Van Peltten	67	1

17th DISTRICT Republican		
22 out of 394 Precincts		
Howard	443	34%
Blatchford	419	32
Sciarrotta	255	20
Hooper	100	8
Berry	84	6

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'FIRED AT POINT-BLANK RANGE'

Witness Describes Shooting, Says, 'He Didn't Have Chance'

BY DICK MAIN
Times Staff Writer

"The gunman started firing at point-blank range and Sen. Kennedy didn't have a chance."

Times photographer-reporter Boris Yaro, who was standing only three feet away from the shooting in the kitchen corridor at the Ambassador, fought back tears as he gave this graphic description of the shooting:

"I was getting ready to shoot a picture and I thought the shots were firecrackers going off."

"Kennedy backed up against the kitchen freezers as the gunman fired at him at point-blank range."

"He cringed and threw his hands up over his face."

"I think five shots were fired."

Moved Close to Kennedy

"The gunman was a short, dark-complexioned man. He moved closer toward the senator, holding a short-barrel revolver."

"Three or four people grabbed him but by then it was too late."

"I turned around and saw Sen. Kennedy lying on the floor. Blood seemed to be pouring out of a wound in his head or ear."

"It seemed as though he was trying to say something but you couldn't hear him."

"The gunman was pinned against the freezer and the gun was knocked from his hand."

"People were shouting, 'He's been shot! He's been shot!'"

"Others screamed: 'Get a doctor. Bobby has been shot!'"

"The shooting took place less than

a minute after Sen. Kennedy stepped off the stage at the Embassy Room. He walked behind the stage through a foyer and into a hotel kitchen corridor."

"He stopped to shake the hand of a bus boy or a waiter who was wearing a white coat."

"Then he moved to shake someone else's hand when the shots rang out."

Karl Eucker, assistant maitre d' at the hotel, helped disarm the gunman. He also witnessed the shooting.

"I heard six shots," he said. "They sounded like Chinese firecrackers."

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